Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCT-01 AID-05 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 728
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

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FOLLOWING RECD FROM MADRAS SENT NEW DELHI DATED APR 5, 1978 BEING RPTD TO YOU.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRAS 0549

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: ANDHRA PRADESH: TENSIONS CONTINUE

REF: MADRAS 0533

1. TROUBLES CONTINUE IN ANDHRA PRADESH, AND THE UNREST SPREAD FROM HYDERABAD TO THE DISTRICTS WHERE DISTURBANCES WERE REPORTED ON APRIL 4. POLICE OPENED FIRE ON A CROWD AT PARKAL IN WARANGAL DISTRICT, AND IN WARANGAL ITSELF, POLICE REPORTEDLY USED TEARGAS TO DISPEL THE CROWDS. IN KARIMNAGAR DISTRICT, GOVERNMENT JEEPS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND BUSES WERE SET ON FIRE; NALGONDA OBSERVED A "BANDH" TO PROTEST AGAINST POLICE FIRINGS IN HYDERABAD. COLLEGE STUDENTS BOYCOTTED CLASSES IN NELLORE, GUNTUR, AND COASTAL TOWNS, AND OPPOSITION PARTIES IN VIJAYAWADA CALLED FOR A "BANDH" ON APRIL 6. THE DEATH TOLL, AS A RESULT OF THE POLICE FIRINGS, HAS GONE UP TO 12 FROM 9 ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. (THE OPPOSITION PARTIES MAINTAIN THAT THE DEATHS MUST BE SEVERAL TIMES

MORE THAN THE OFFICIAL FIGURE.) ARMY UNITS BEGIN PATROLLING AREAS OF HYDERABAD AND SECUNDERABAD.

- 2. APPARENTLY ANXIOUS TO FRAME THE TROUBLES IN A NATIONAL CONTEXT RATHER THAN IN A PURELY LOCAL ONE, CHIEF MINISTER CHENNA REDDY NOW SAYS THAT THE NAXALITES AND COMMUNALISTS WERE BEHIND THE INCIDENTS IN HYDERABAD WHICH LED TO THE POLICE FIRINGS AND THE IMPOSITION OF A CURFEW. HE ALLEGED THAT A NUMBER OF NAXALITIES HAVE COME FROM BENGAL TO AID THE LOCAL GROUPS IN FOMENTING TROUBLE.
- 3. THE OPPOSITION LEADERS HAVE CONDEMNED THE ATTEMPT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER AND HIS FOLLOWERS TO DISAVOW RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE INCIDENTS BY BLAMING THE EXTREMISTS AND COMMUNALISTS FOR VIOLENCE, AND JANATA LEADERS HAVE ALREADY DEMANDED THE RESIGNATION OF THE CHENNA REDDY MINISTRY. A GROUP OF JANATA LEADERS VISITED DELHI TO BRIEF THE HOME MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER, AND CHENNA REDDY HIMSELF REPORTEDLY INFORMED PRESIDENT NAJIVA REDDY, PRIME MINISTER DESAI, AND HOME MINISTER CHARAN SINGH OF THE DEVELOPMENTS. IF THE VIOLENCE CONTINUES, DEMANDS FOR THE DISMISSAL OF THE REDDY MINISTRY COULD SPREAD.
- 4. ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE HYDERABAD TROUBLES, AND CHIEF MINISTER REDDY'S ALLEGATION OF NAXALITE PARTICIPATION MAY BE AN EFFORT TO DAMPEN DOWN THE TROUBLE STARTED BY POLICE MISBEHAVIOR AND TO HEAD OFF THE CRITICISM OF HIS MINISTRY. THE NAXALITIES MIGHT WELL BE RELUCTANT TO RESORT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIOLENCE AT A TIME WHEN THE BHARGAVA COMMISSION IS PROBING POLICE KILLINGS OF NAXALITES. IN ANY CASE, THE OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE NOT LIKELY TO LET CHENNA REDDY OFF THE HOOK SO EASILY AND THIS COULD BE THE FIRST ROUND OF TROUBLE FOR THE CHIEF MINISTER WHO USE SUCH TACTICS HIMSELF TO STIR UP TROUBLE IN THE PAST. MCCASKILL UNQUOTE GOHEEN

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